—Petroleum Tax Code to be place.

—Provision for Hydrocarbon Development Fund.

Besides Government has given infrastructure status to E&P sector which allows 7years Tax Holiday.

(c) t o(e) The oilfields (Regulation & Development) Act, 1948 has recently been amended to empower the Government to notify different rates of royalty in respect of same mineral oil, mined, quarried, excavated or collected from the areas covered by different classes of mining leases.

Merger and Rationalisation of Public Sector Oil Companies

2744. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it would make enormous economic sense to merge and rationalise the public sector oil companies;

(b) whether it is a fact that the public sector undertaking oil companies operate at low profit levels;

(c) whether any study has been made of a potential scenario involving the merger of one or more oil companies in the public sector;

(d) if so, the agency which did the study; and

(e) if no study has been made, whether Government will order such a study on the likely scenario which will emerge from merger amongst public sector undertaking oil compnies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a") It would be advantageous to merge or co-relate like oil companies with like or intervolved in order to enhance efficieny and competitiveness.

(b) Oil companies are operating at reasonable profit levels;

(c) to (e) Government have constituted a committee to recommend upon startegic partnerships/alliances/ relationships between IBP (a public sector petroleum marketing company) and other petroleum Public Sector Undertakings for total optlnality in functioning.

रॉयल शैल द्वारा संयुक्त उद्यम से पीछे हटना

2745. **श्री लक्खीराम अग्रवाल** : क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या प्रमुख तेल कम्पनी रायल शैल ने सरकारी क्षेत्र के उपक्रम भारत पेट्रोलियम के साथ 10,000 करोड़ रूपए की लागत वाली प्रस्तावित संयुक्त तेल शोधन परियोजना से हाथ खींच लिया है, यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है,

(ख)क्या उपरोक्त परियोजना को अब पूरा किया जाएगा और उन कंपनियों के नाम क्या है जिनके इस संयुक्त उद्यम में भाग लेने की संभावना है, और

(ग) सरकार द्वारा देश में अब तक ऐसी कितनी परियोजनाओं को मंजूरी दी गई है, इन परियोजनाओं की लागत तथा क्षमता का राज्य-वार ब्यौरा क्या है और इन पर किस तिथि से कार्य प्रारम्भ होगा ?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री संतोष कुमार गंगवार) : (क) और (ख) उत्तर प्रदेश में मैसर्स शैल इन्टरनेशलनल पेट्रोलियम कंपनी लि. (शेल) के साथ एक संयुक्त उद्यम के रूप में 7 मिलियन मीट्रिक टन प्रतिवर्ष क्षमता की रिफाइनरी स्थापित करने के लिए भारत पेट्रोलियम कार्पोरेशन लिमिटेड को प्रथम चरण का अनुमोदन मई, 1997 में दिया गया था। विस्तृत व्यवहार्यता रिपोर्ट की तैयारी भारत पेट्रोलियम कार्पोरेशन लिमिटेड तथा शेल द्वारा संयुक्त रूप से आरंभ की गई थी। तथापि, जुलाई 1998 में शेल ने संकेत दिया था कि वे परियोजना से पीछे हट रहें है, और उसके बाद से उन्होनें विस्तृत व्यवहार्यता रिपोर्ट की तैयारी में भाग नहीं लिया है। भारत पेट्रोलियम कार्पोरेशन लिमिटेड ने विस्तृत व्यवहार्यता रिपोर्ट तैयार कर ली है और उसे सरकार को प्रस्तृत कर दिया है।

(ग) ऐसे संयुक्त उद्यम प्रस्तावों की स्थिति पर जानकारी निम्नानुसार है:

क्रम सं.	संयुक्त उद्यम रिफाइनरी परियोजना का स्थान	लागत (करोड़ रू. में)	क्षमता (मी.मी.ट. प्रति वर्ष)	प्रारम्भ/समान की तिथि
(I)	भटिण्डा (पंजाब)	9806	9	नवम्बर, 2002 तक पूरा होने का कार्यक्रम
(II)	अभयाचन्द्रपुर	8270	9	जुलाई, 2002 तक पूरा होने का कार्यक्रम
(III)	बीना (म. प्र.)	5277	6	वर्ष, 2002 की समाप्ति तक पूरा होने की संभावना है ।

Illegal Sale of Diesel and Petrol in Orissa

2746. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the large scale selling of petrol and diesel at black market in Orissa at other than petrol pumps like any other commodities sold in any shop;

(b) if so, the steps taken to stop the sale of petrol and diesel at such illegal manner;

(c) whether any effort is being made by Government to detect such illegal sale;

(d) if so, the numner of cases detected; and

(e) the details of the action taken against the persons involved in the illegal sale of petrol and diesel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (e) No such report has been received from Public Sector Oil Companies and State Government of Orissa. However, to check adulteration, black marketing and other malpractices in the sale of Petrol & Diesel, regular and surprise inspections are conducted by Public Sector Oil Companies and State Governments from time to time and action is taken under the Motor Spirit and High Speed Diesel (Prevention of Malpractices in Supply and Distribution) Orders, 1990 and Marketing Discipline Guidelines against those found guilty.

LPG Agencies in Assam

2747. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG agencies functioning at present in the State of Assam distriet-wise;

(b) the district-wise names, addresses of the gas agencies in the State;

(c) the number of gas connections registered and allotted by the existing gas agencies during the last three years and till date;

(d) whether it is a fact that the present gas agencies in the State are not sufficient keeping in view of the increasing demand of the people in Assam; and

(e) if so, the necessary steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Presently, 126 LPG distriutorships are in operation in Assam with a customer strength of 4.90 lakhs, as on 1.10.1998, 2.29 lakhs customers were registered on wait list with these distributors in Assam. During the last three years (1995-96 to 1997-98), 123990 LPG connections were allotted in Assam.